

John F. Lee

Mr. Baldwin's Sermon

ON THE

Decease of Lieut. Governor PHILLIPS,

FEB. 10, 1802.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Mr. William S. Sullivan

on the

Records of the Government of the Philippines

THE 10-100

THE 10-100

A
S E R M O N,
PREACHED FEBRUARY 15, 1802,
BEFORE
THE HONOURABLE SENATE
AND
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE
Commonwealth of Massachusetts,
ON THE
Day of the Interment
OF HIS HONOR
SAMUEL PHILLIPS, ESQ.
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR,
WHO DIED FEBRUARY 10, 1802, *Æ.* 50.

BY THOMAS BALDWIN, A. M. CHAPLAIN TO THE HOUSE.



BOSTON :
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1802.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

IN SENATE, FEB. 16, 1802.

ORDERED, That ISAAC THOMSON, Esq. with such as the Hon. House may join, be a Committee to wait on the Rev. THOMAS BALDWIN, and thank him for the Discourse delivered by him, before the two Branches of the General Court, on the Death of His Honor the LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR; and to request a copy thereof for Publication.
Sent down for concurrence.

DAVID COBB, *President.*

In the House of Representatives, Feb. 17, 1802.

Read and concurred, and Mr. WELLS and Mr. TILDEMAN are joined.

EDWD. H. ROBBINS, *Speaker.*



S E R M O N.

JOHN 1—47.

** BEHOLD AN ISRAELITE INDEED, IN WHOM IS NO
GUILE."*

MAN is the noblest piece of creating skill in this lower world. In the vast scale of being he holds a dignified and important rank. In his original state of rectitude he was made but a little lower than the angels. And, notwithstanding the universal contagion of moral depravity, there are instances to be found in which the human character bears a near resemblance to its original perfection.

THE instance recorded in the text exhibits one of those illustrious examples which are highly honorable to human nature.

THE piece of sacred history before us is simply this: Our blessed LORD, immediately after he entered upon his public ministry, chose a number of persons to be with him, to be witnesses of his doctrine, of his miracles, of his life and death. PHILIP with two others, were called from *Bethsaida*, a town situated

situated on the lake of *Genesareth* in *Galilee*. As this town was near to *Cana*, it is probable that PHILIP might have been previously acquainted with the person mentioned in the text. But whether this were the case or not, we are informed, that he found him, and in a rapture of joy told him, that the long-looked for MESSIAH had made his appearance. "For (saith he) we have found him of whom MOSES in the law, and the Prophets, did write, JESUS of *Nazareth*, the son of JOSEPH." On hearing *Nazareth* mentioned, NATHANIEL seemed to hesitate. He, no doubt, recollected the sacred Oracle had declared, that *Bethlehem* should be honored as the birth place of the Saviour.

IN order to remove the incredulity of NATHANIEL, and that he might have a fair opportunity to judge for himself,—PHILLIP, in the true spirit of an Evangelist, invited him to "come and see" his Divine Master.

"JESUS saw NATHANIEL coming to him, and said of him, *Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!*"

THIS honorable testimony to the character of NATHANIEL, by one who could scrutinize the human heart, places him in a very preeminent point of light. It is not, however, to be supposed, that he was wholly free from the contaminating influence of depravity; but that his general character was fair and unexceptionable: That he was a true son of *Israel*: A plain hearted, honest, upright man; and that his breast was never the abode of envy, duplicity, or guile.

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As the sacred historian has not given us his character in detail ; but presented him, at first view, as approximating to the "measure of the stature of the fulness of a perfect man in CHRIST;" it would be in vain for us to attempt a particular illustration. It is, however, very probable he was a man in the humble walks of private life, but it is thought the character given him in the text, would do honor to the First Magistrate of a nation. We shall, therefore, accommodate the words to the occasion before us, and proceed to notice some of the most prominent features in the character of a *virtuous, wise, patriotic and pious* Magistrate.

WE shall then make some application of the subject to the affecting occasion before us.

WE begin with observing : 1st. That a man cannot be considered as strictly virtuous and good, without integrity of heart, or an upright disposition. Uprightness of heart is the vital principle of morality.

THE most splendid talents have often been rendered useless, and still oftener extremely dangerous, from the want of this principle. It has been said, that men will be virtuous in proportion to their information ; but this is not strictly true. If it were, we should have no sins to answer for, but the sins of ignorance. But alas, my brethren, how many well-informed villains have disgraced human nature ! How often have men of the greatest abilities, and most improved intellects, been guilty of the meanest actions !

"If parts allure thee, see how BACON shin'd,

"The greatest, wisest, meanest of mankind."

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WHERE the heart is not upright, it will often betray the ruling passion of the man. And in defiance of all the restraints imposed by a regard to decency, a sense of honor, or the more awful sanctions of religion, will, at times, break out into overt acts, both criminal and disgraceful. And how can we expect it to be otherwise, when we consider that the man's heart, and his visible conduct, are in a state of perpetual warfare?

ON the other hand, the good man is supported by integrity and uprightness. If at any time he is guilty of an error, it belongs to his head and not to his heart. His words and actions are a faithful index of the inward principle. To use the beautiful language of inspiration, "He walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh truth in his heart."

THIS kind of goodness or integrity of heart, which we have been speaking of, seems necessary to that confidence which is the bond of society, and without which no man can be an "Israelite indeed."

BUT 2. IN order to a man's becoming eminently useful, his natural powers must be cultivated, and his passions and appetites put under proper discipline and restraint. The mind must be stored with knowledge. Nor will it be sufficient to store it up, but he must be able to use it to advantage.—Although we have denied, that virtue always keeps pace with our knowledge, yet we are far from thinking that ignorance is more friendly to it. No, let men be enlightened, and if they are not virtuous the fault will be their own. A man, however, may acquire

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acquire very considerable knowledge and not be a wise man ; for they are two distinct characters.— The difference is easily discerned. The person possessed of knowledge only, is like a man who has a large stock of raw materials on hand, but is ignorant of the art of manufacturing them for use. The man of real wisdom, is capable of improving all the stock which he possesses, be it more or less, for his own and the public good.

MEN are not born Philosophers, or Statesmen ; the principles of both are acquired by intense application and study, by habit and experience. Hence we see, that integrity and wisdom must unite in forming the character of the amiable useful man.— Where these are combined, and flow out in the various offices of life, they arrest, with an irresistible influence, our esteem, and carry in their progress the full homage of our hearts.

WHEN we see the Magistrate, cloathed with rightful authority, and manifesting, in all his official conduct, that integrity and uprightness, that wisdom and prudence we have been speaking of—we are ready to exclaim, in the language of the text, “ Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile.”

WE proceed to observe 3. THAT genuine patriotism, or the love of our country, forms one trait in the character of such as are eminently useful in public life. The love of country was taught by the Romans as one of the first of virtues. By this, however, we do not mean such a partiality for our own country, as would lead us to be unjust to others. But, that we are attached to our Constitutions of

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Government, to our laws, to our religion, to our friends, and to all our domestic enjoyments.

WITHOUT this noble principle it would be impossible to draw some men, and perhaps the best too, into the public service. They would not sacrifice the pleasures and tranquilities of domestic life merely for the honors of a court ; nor yet for the sake of the pecuniary rewards allotted them for their services. They are not insensible of the honors conferred on them by their grateful countrymen ; but still, in many instances, it is a sense of duty which impels them to continue in public life, when powerful motives combine to invite their retirement.

WE see this sentiment eminently illustrated in the Man, whom we are proud to call the FATHER of his country. What but this, could have induced him to exchange the peaceful shades of *Mount Vernon*, for the toils and dangers of the tented field ? (For you will remember, my brethren, that he served without wages.) What but the call of his country, could have drawn him the second time from his beloved retirement, when he had already reached the pinnacle of fame ?

The same noble spirit glowed in the breasts of many of his co-patriots. The same spirit, we trust, still influences a large proportion of our civil rulers. Wretched, indeed, would be the state of our country, should this spirit cease to actuate our public councils.

No good man can feel indifferent to the prosperity of his country ; much less could he take part with her enemies. Every true American ; every
 “ Israelite

"Israelite indeed," feels his happiness interwoven with the happiness of his country, and his earthly all embarked upon the same bottom.

THE man who thus loves his country, and employs his talents in her service, will share her confidence and esteem while he lives, her tears when he dies, and will descend to his tomb with a thousand blessings on his head.

BUT 4. There is one important trait more in the character under consideration, without which no man can be an "Israelite indeed;" and that is *piety* towards God.

THIS is one of the main pillars on which public confidence reposes. It is the brightest ornament which can adorn the character of a civil Magistrate. It brightens and lengthens every ray of glory which surround his venerable head.

THERE can be no doubt but NATHANIEL was a truly pious and good man; and very probably a true believer in the divine EMMANUEL before he saw him personally. JESUS informed him, that before PHILIP called him, when he was under the fig tree, he saw him. What NATHANIEL was doing under the fig tree we are not told. Would it be improper to suppose, he was prostrate before the eternal throne? For he evidently thought himself concealed from every eye but Omniscience. And when JESUS told him that he saw him, he exclaimed, with believing astonishment, "RABBI! Thou art the SON of GOD! Thou art the KING of Israel!" Noble confession indeed! Worthy of the character which CHRIST had given him.

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BUT it may be asked, why it is thought so important for civil magistrates to be men of religion? I answer; they occupy a large space, and their characters and example have a wide and commanding influence on the opinions and morals of others.

WILL it be said, these are the sentiments of modern fanaticism? Are they not dictated by sober experience, by reason; yea more, by the infallible Scriptures of Truth. Instead of many testimonies which might be adduced, I will only trouble you with one; and that shall be from a man venerable for his age; for his long experience; for the important rank which he held in society. The sentiment acquires solemnity, as it fell from the lips of a dying man, in the full view of eternity; yea more, from a man under the immediate inspiration of the Almighty! "The Spirit of the LORD, (said he) spake by me, and his word was in my tongue. The God of *Israel* said; the Rock of *Israel* spake to me; *He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God.*" Never, surely, was a sentiment more important, or expressed under circumstances more impressive.

NOT to weaken the preceding remarks, but to obviate an objection which may arise in the minds of some, it will be conceded, that many men have filled important stations with honor, and have been eminently useful to their country, who have not given evidence that they were Christians in the strictest sense. It is believed, however, that they were not wholly destitute of religious principle. Where this is intirely absent, the very oaths which
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bind them to the faithful discharge of their office, would become like SAMPSON'S green withs, which were like a thread of tow when scorched by a candle.

IF it should be contended that religion is not absolutely essential to the character of a good Magistrate, I presume it will not be denied that it is highly ornamental, and in that view very desirable. The speaker is not, however, contending for particular creeds, or urging the necessity of religious tests, in order to qualify men for office ; nor would he wish the President of the *United States* to assume the title of "Defender of the Faith."

HAVING made these remarks, we shall now proceed to apply them to the mournful occasion before us.

THE late solemn and affecting providence of GOD, in removing, by death, His Honor SAMUEL PHILLIPS, Esquire, Lieutenant Governor of this Commonwealth, has called for this public expression of grief and mourning, of gratitude and esteem, for a man whom we have long delighted to honor : For a man, who has devoted almost an intire life to the service of his country ; and who, to his latest hour, shared the undiminished, yea the increasing confidence of his numerous friends.

BUT what can my feeble talents and limited information add to the character of a man, so publicly known and so generally esteemed.

THE Honorable Legislature, before whom I stand, as well as the friends of the deceased, will allow me to draw largely upon their candor, while,
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with great diffidence, I attempt a few remarks upon the character of the venerable dead.

It is said, that "a child is known by his doings." This was remarkably exemplified in Mr. PHILLIPS. For even in early life he discovered an unusual solidity of thought, and an accuracy in judging of things, which would have done honor to riper years. These happy presages of future usefulness have been fully realized.

FIDELITY and uprightness formed a conspicuous trait in the character of this good man, through every stage of life. The heart of his friends most safely trusted in him. His breast was the seat of social and filial confidence. Equity and truth were the girdle of his loins. What DAVID desired and prayed for, our departed friend enjoyed: "Integrity and uprightness preserved him." This sacred principle may be considered as the foundation, on which his well-earned, and increasing fame, has been built. The circumspection and regularity of his behaviour in all circumstances, was such, that when you saw him you could hardly forbear exclaiming, "Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile."

WITH what diligence and assiduity he pursued his studies; with what honor and applause he acquitted himself, while at the University in this neighborhood, is fully known, and cheerfully acknowledged by all who had the happiness of an acquaintance with him. He was not only anxious to gather the flowers of science, but to collect a large harvest of its precious fruits, and to store them up for future use.

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His modest obliging behaviour while at College, conciliated the affection and esteem of his companions, "and obtained for him the notice and regard of his instructors."

THERE are numbers who survive him, and some are here present, who were his associates at this interesting period. You knew his worth; you revered his talents; you prized his friendship; and it is presumed you participate largely in the public grief occasioned by his death.

FEW men have formed a higher estimate of the advantages of early education, than our much honored and lamented friend. The education of youth and children, was an object which lay near his heart. He clearly saw the advantages which would follow, especially in a Republican Government, from having the people enlightened in order to be free. He well knew, that unless men were so informed as to understand the true principles of rational liberty, they would not long be capable of preserving it. Much of his attention, therefore, was drawn to this important object.

THE Academy in his own town, which bears the family name, is principally indebted to his constant assiduity, and liberal patronage, for its present increasing usefulness and prosperity.

BUT, this Patron of science is no more! This friend of the fatherless, the orphan, and the stranger, sleeps in death!

TRANSPORTED in my imagination to the late mansion of the deceased, I fancy I see in the solemn procession which is now forming, to attend his precious

cious dust to the silent tomb, led on by their kind instructors, a group of little mourners, whose hearts throb with anguish, and whose eyes swim with tears, while they follow, with slow and reluctant steps, the dear man who has done so much to make them wise and happy. God Almighty bless the lads! May an indulgent Providence raise up new friends to the institution. May the only surviving son, who inherits the name, the patrimony, and, we trust, the excellent spirit of his deceased father, be ever blessed with the means, and indulged the pleasure of promoting and encouraging the same good work. And may his conduct in this, and in every other laudable measure, abundantly evince, that he too is an "Israelite indeed."

LET us now, for a moment, trace the character of our honoured friend in his career in public life.

HERE we behold the genuine Patriot, and the enlightened accomplished Statesman.

AT an unusually early period of life he was elected by the free suffrages of his fellow-towns-men to a seat in the Legislature of this Commonwealth.—Twenty-six years of a life which has only been prolonged to fifty, has been devoted to the cause of his country. Twenty years successively (with the intermission of one only, in which he was not in the Legislature) he was chosen a Senator; sixteen of which he presided in that honorable body.

DURING this long period, you, my Honored Fathers, know with what persevering diligence and fidelity; with what dignity and firmness; with what accuracy and ability, he discharged the difficult duties of his station.

SEVERAL

SEVERAL of my honored friends, here present, have been his colleagues, through seasons of peril and danger. You saw him stand unshaken during our revolutionary storm. You were with him, also, at a later period, which will always be remembered, as a solemn crisis in the history of this government, when the "tempestuous ocean of liberty" swelled high, and threatened to inundate the State: You saw him then steady as the poles. Preserving, amidst the fluctuation of opinion, an irreproachable character, and possessing, amidst the rage of party, an "honorable popularity."

THE short time he has filled the second office in this Commonwealth, has been much interrupted to by his ill state of health; but when able to attend business, he manifested the same zeal for the public welfare; the same ardent love for his country, which had marked his conduct through every preceding part of his life.

MUCH we might have contemplated from his future usefulness, had heaven granted him a longer date. But, his work is done. And he is gone to receive, as we trust, the rewards of a faithful servant. Solemn thought! We shall see his face no more!

I ADD once more. That character, in which the deceased shone with peculiar lustre, was the Christian. The converging rays of excellence in his character all centre in this point.

HIS religion was not composed of the cold systems of speculation, which, though they may enlighten the head, never warm the heart. His attach-

ment to Christianity, was not the effect of tradition ; but arose from a conviction of its truth, and of its important influence upon the moral tempers of men.

IN early life, he was not ashamed to own himself a disciple of JESUS of *Nazareth*. And such was the exactness with which he discharged the various duties of the Christian profession, that it might, with great propriety, be said of him, "Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile."

HE loved and honored the LORD's day, and the various duties of divine worship. His devotion was not the effect of a melancholy disposition nor of intemperate zeal ; but the result of fixed principles and established habits. Nor did his religion end with the Sabbath. He carried it into the week, into the family, and into all the concerns of social and domestic life.

HIS house was indeed a little *Bethel*, consecrated to GOD. Here, with his dear companion and family, at regular stated seasons, he worshiped the Father of Spirits. In a word ; he was the accurate Scholar, the enlightened Statesman, the accomplished Gentleman, and the exemplary Christian. In whatever character we view him, we see the same excellent qualities displayed in all his conduct. But I forbear enlarging, and hasten to a close.

IN the death of this great and good man, Science has lost one of her brightest ornaments, and most zealous patrons. The "Commonwealth, one of its best and ablest friends." Religion drops a tear, and then, with a cheerful smile, exclaims, "Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright, for the end of that man is peace."

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THE calmness and tranquility which our deceased friend enjoyed during his long and distressing illness, while he viewed without fear or dread the gradual approaches of the King of Terrors, was not the effect of stoic insensibility, much less of modern philosophy; but of an unshaken trust in the living God. Of an assurance of pardon through the blood of Christ. He "knew in whom he had believed."

HAD we been permitted to attend his dying chamber, we doubt not but we might have received the same instruction which the celebrated Addison gave his young friend in his last moments: "See, he said, in what peace a Christian can die."

THE loss to the family is distressing indeed. With the dear bereaved Widow, and only Son, we most sincerely and affectionately sympathize. May the consolations of God, which are neither few nor small, be abundantly granted unto them. May this affecting dispensation serve to lessen their attachments to earth, and lead them to place their hope and trust in God alone.

AND will God graciously sanctify this solemn event, to that branch of our government, with which our deceased Friend by his office was more immediately connected. May they remember, that though they are honored as Gods here, "they must die like men, and fall like one of the princes." The Lord help them to discharge their respective duties, with integrity and uprightness. And when they shall be called from their stations here, may they be accepted of God, and leave behind them the "good name which is better than precious ointment."

You

— You will permit me, my Civil Fathers of the SENATE and HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, to invite your attention to that solemn period, when all earthly distinctions shall be lost in the grave. You are taught, by the affecting providence which you this day so honorably notice, the end of all human greatness. "Man being in honor abideth not."— No condition in life, however elevated, can afford the least security. Death enters the splendid palace with as little ceremony as the thatched cottage. "There is no discharge in this war." "The tall, the wise, the reverend head," must lie alike in the dust.

THE man, so dear to many you, with whom you often took sweet council, is here no more. The dust is returning to its dust. "Corruption has already commenced its riot." The cold vapours of death will soon collect around that venerable head, and the silence of the tomb will secure his repose. The imprisoned spirit is released from its confinement to earth, and has winged its way to mansions in the skies.

YE guardian Angels, who are sent to minister for them who are heirs of salvation, ye watched over our departed friend from the morning of his existence, to his dying hour. Ye watched the progress he made in the divine life, and saw him daily ripening for heaven. Ye too were commissioned to patrol his dying chamber, to mark the last throbbing pulse, and then conduct the departing spirit to realms of everlasting day.

AND could we, my brethren, have been admitted with that holy Apostle to the third heavens,
when

when the *immortal powers* hailed their kindred spirit, methinks we should have heard them exclaim, with rapture, "Behold ! an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile !"

You will suffer me, my friends and fellow citizens, in concluding the subject, just to add ; that this solemn providence ought to be heard by us all as the warning voice of God, saying unto us, "Be ye also ready." Let us "work while the day lasts, for the night cometh in which no man can work." In the grave, that land of darkness, there is neither "wisdom, knowledge, nor device."

LET us adore that God whose ways are unsearchable and past finding out. Who "bringeth Princes to nothing, and maketh the Judges of the earth as vanity." "Behold he taketh away, who can hinder him ? Who will say unto him what doest thou ?"

PLACING unshaken confidence in the wisdom and benevolence of that Almighty Being, who maketh thick darkness his pavilion round about ; let us, with adoring reverence, unite with the inhabitants of heaven, saying, Alleluia ; for the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth ! AMEN.

